# Ancient Material Worlds

— History you can touch

# Assignment #4 – Late Roman Cities

There are few ways to understand Roman urban spaces better than to simply be in them. The sense of space and the particular qualities of an ancient city become apparent organically over long exposure. They also become evident by comparison. For this reason, visiting many ancient urban sites helps one to understand both their commonalities and their unique characteristics. Sadly, we cannot visit these cities as part of our class, but we can take extended virtual tours of a few places and begin to let the sense of place seep into our awareness and, by comparing that understanding to another place, begin to habituate ourselves to these spaces in a manner similar to how we experience our own urban environments.

**PART I:** **Explore the landscapes**

For this assignment, you'll watch three videos of three different ancient cities. The first city is Pompeii. For this assignment Pompeii will provide a kind 'baseline of Romanness' (though it is by no means archetypical): it is moderate in size, Italian, and ends in the 1st century CE. Watch the video and take note of what you see, especially what you see again and again. Use this map to follow your route, starting at the Porta Stabia, the southernmost gate in the city.

**Pompeii:**

**Turkey and France:**

The second and third cities – one from Turkey and one from France – are assigned to you in the table below. Assignments are listed by first name, and each city has set of videos (identical, except S = Stabilized; US = Unstabilized) and a Map.

| Student | Turkey | Video | Map | France | Video | Map |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Perge | S US | Map | Glanum | S US | Map |
| | Laodiceia | S US | Map | Vaison-la-Romaine | S US | Map |
| | Ephesus | S US | Map | Glanum | S US | Map |
| | Side | S US | Map | Ambrussum | S US | Map |
| | Ephesus | S US | Map | Vaison-la-Romaine | S US | Map |

| | | S US | Map | | S US | Map |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Aspendos | S US | Map | Glanum | S US | Map |
| | Sagalossos | S US | Map | Vaison-la-Romaine | S US | Map |
| | Laodiceia | S US | Map | Ambrussum | S US | Map |
| | Side | S US | Map | Glanum | S US | Map |
| | Aspendos | S US | Map | Ambrussum | S US | Map |
| | Sagalossos | S US | Map | Glanum | S US | Map |
| | Perge | S US | Map | Vaison-la-Romaine | S US | Map |
| | Hieropolis | S US | Map | Ambrussum | S US | Map |

## PART II. Map the video's route.

Students will mark the video's route across their assigned cities of Turkey and France, placing a minimum of 15 pins for each video. These pins are meant to draw attention to moments that you found were useful in understanding the urban landscape of each city, or were interesting in their own right. Here are the instructions:

i. Click on your assigned map

ii. Sign-in to ArcGIS online

iii. Save the map to your content by using the "Save As" feature.

iv. Click the "Edit" button to reveal map tools.

v. Place a Pushpin at a location to mark it.

vi. Title it sequentially as Point 1, Point 2, Point 3, etc.

vii. In the Description box, very briefly describe what there is to see at that location (e.g., "view of colonnaded street"; "ascent to temple"; "monumental fountain"). Also, give the time reference in the video (e.g., 1:13-2:17) and the URL of the video (this will be the same each time).

viii. If there is a photo of the location and/or a website about that location, give these in the URL boxes.

## PART III. Annotate important locations.

At no less than five (5) location in the map, students will placing a pin (and using different symbol) at places of special interest. These may be major buildings, areas of destruction, views of infrastructure, etc. For these five or more pins, students will complete the steps above for Part II, but in addition will write a write a 100-200 word description of the location using library and web resources to more fully explain the location. Students will first write this text in a program like Word (using footnotes, hyperlinked text, etc.) and then paste it into the Description box.

## PART IV. Compare the urban landscapes.

In the form below students will add their observations on these three different urban landscapes. How are (e.g.) Perge or Ambrussum different? What might account for these differences? How are each different from Pompeii? Are these differences only a function of different levels of preservation or excavation? What about the features that simply never

existed at some of the sites (e.g., public colonnades are esp. rare)? How do we account for these?

Your response should be in the form of an essay approximately 1200 words long (no less than 1000, no more than 1500), including references, bibliography, and links to any images or moments of the video. Observations will be wide ranging, and while they might be obvious, they must not be simplistic. For example:

- Obvious= "Terrain effects the layout…. (followed by explanation);
- Simplistic="One is on a hill, the other is flat" (followed by no explanation).

The completed assignment – i.e., the submission of the form – is due before class on Monday, 4/24.

# The Landscape of Late Roman Cities

\*\*\* So that you can most easily write and re-read your answers, ensure that they are delivered and not lost by the internet, and be able to access these answers again later in the assignment, it is required that you write your answers in an offline program (MS Word, Pages, notepad, etc.) and then paste the responses into the question form. Save these offline documents with the rest of your files for the course. \*\*\*

\* Required

## Your Name \*

Your answer

## URL to your map of the Roman city in Turkey \*

https://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-online/share-maps/share-maps.htm

Playlists Roman Cities in Turkey and France.

Each playlist contains eleven videos of cites. The videos in the top playlist have been stabilized using Youtube's stabilizer tool. The second playlist has the uncorrected videos. Use whichever video set you prefer. (NB: These are the same videos as listed in the assignments table above).

# The Landscape of Late Roman Cities

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* Required

## Your Name *

Your answer

## URL to your map of the Roman city in Turkey *

https://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-online/share-maps/share-maps.htm

Your answer

## URL to your map of the Roman city in France *

https://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-online/share-maps/share-maps.htm

Your answer

## Compare the urban landscapes

Your response should be in the form of an essay approximately 1200 words long (no less than 1000, no more than 1500), including references, bibliography, and links to any images or moments of the video.

Your answer

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